Akira SUGANO & Etsumi NINOMIYA

CLEAR SKIES!

毎日晴天! vol. 2

June

Yaoi Manga

CLEAR SKIES! 毎日晴天! VOL. 2

"GET OUT." Those were the last words that Taiga Obinata said to Shuu Asuou. Taiga is afraid that his brothers are getting more and more attached to Shuu by the minute. But what scares Taiga even more is that he hasn't gotten over his own feelings for Shuu—feelings he's kept hidden since high school. And Taiga just can't fall for his sister's husband, right?

But what happens when Akinobu drops the ultimate bomb—Shima and Shuu's marriage isn't registered in the Obinata family records. What then? Will Shuu just give up his dream of being part of the Obinata family? Will Taiga let Shuu go, just like that time in high school so many years ago? Will these two messed-up adults ever figure out what even Yuuta can see so clearly—that some things just won't change? Like love. Like family. Like the feelings and bonds which go beyond blood or records, which tie even strangers closely together. Find out what happens to this ragtag family in this heartwarming and emotional conclusion to the Clear Skies series.

MANGA / DRAMA / ROMANCE
US $12.95

YA FOR YOUNG ADULTS 16+

ISBN-13 978-1-56970-576-6
51295
9 781569 705766

NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

June by DMP
junemanga.com

CLEAR SKIES! vol. 2
Akira Sugano & Etsumi Hinomiya
June

CLEAR SKIES!

VOL. 2 毎日晴天!

Akira SUGANO & Etsumi NINOMIYA

June

CLEAR SKIES!

毎日晴天! VOL. 2

SCENE 5	7
SCENE 6	57
SCENE 7	99
SCENE 8	147
AFTERWORD	206
FREE TALK (By Akira Sugano)	210

Translation	Mary Kennard
Lettering	Replibooks
Graphic Design/Layout	Michelle Mauk
Editor in Chief	Fred Lui
Publisher	Hikaru Sasahara

CLEAR SKIES! VOL.2 - MAINICHI SEITENI VOL.2 © 2001 Akira Sugano & Etsumi Ninomiya. All rights reserved. Original Japanese edition published by TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo. English version in U.S.A and CANADA published by Digital Manga, Inc. under the license granted by TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD. English translation copyright © 2003 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All other material © 2003 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. Any likeness of characters, places, and situations featured in this publication to actual persons (living or deceased), events, places, and situations is purely coincidental. All characters depicted in sexually explicit scenes in this publication are at least the age of consent or older. The JUNÉ logo is ™ of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.

English Edition Published by
DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING
A division of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.
1487 W 178th Street, Suite 300
Gardena, CA 90248

www.dmpbooks.com

First Edition: November 2003
ISBN-10: 1-56970-576-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-56970-576-6

1 2 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Canada

Hiroshi Ninomiya Present

Akira • Sugano & Etsumi

scene.5

I KNEW THAT MY BROTHERS ...

...WOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO BECOME ATTACHED TO YOU.

EVEN ME....

...AS SOON AS I MET YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL,

I...

PLEASE.

CRICK

CRICK

CRICK

CRICK

OBINATA, WHEN YOU STARTED WORKING AT ASIMOV,

WHY DID YOU CALL ON ME?

I DON'T INTEND TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN.

BUT,

...YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR HOME IS BECOMING NATURAL.

GRADUALLY...

...

...EVEN MORE USED TO YOU BEING HERE,

BEFORE THEY GET...

I WANT YOU TO GET OUT.

FOUR YEARS WITHOUT ANY WORD, AND THEN SUDDENLY...

...YOU ASKED ME TO WORK WITH YOU...

THAT-

THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU HAVE TALENT.

OF COURSE

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE... YOU STOPPED COMMUNICATING...

AND THEN YOUR LETTER SUDDENLY ARRIVED...

I GUESS I MISUNDER-STOOD.

I...

...LET MYSELF HOPE...JUST A LITTLE.

...

THAT TIME, I HAD JUST TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR YUUTA.

TO BE FRANK, THE WORK WAS A GODSEND.

BUT WHEN YOU SAY "TALENT".

IT SOUNDS A LITTLE ODD...

...SINCE UP TO THAT TIME I HAD ONLY WRITTEN...

...HIGHBROW LITERARY PIECES.

...

IF YOU REMEMBER THAT...

THE NIGHT REFLECTED IN HIS EYES IS THE SAME TOO.

YOU SLEPT THROUGH THE THIRD AND FOURTH MOVIES.

...THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE FACE TO FACE.

...THEN YOU MUST REMEMBER THE THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT...

...IS BASED ON THOSE IDEAS.

THE SERIAL HE'S WRITING FOR ASIMOV...

YOUR IDEAS WERE REALLY INTERESTING, AND I REMEMBERED THEM.

REMEMBER THAT FOUR-MOVIE SPECIAL WE WENT TO?

YOU TALKED ABOUT HOW YOU WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THEM.

THAT'S NOT A LIE.

WE WERE FREED FROM CLASS.

...WHEN WE SKIPPED OUT ON THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

THAT WAS NICE, WASN'T IT..

HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL..

SINCE THAT TIME.

IT WAS A REALLY DIRTY THEATER.

YOU...

YOU ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE YOU DIDN'T NEED ANYBODY.

I WAS SO TIRED OF MY FAMILY BACK THEN.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO HANG OUT WITH A GUY WHO WASN'T SO NEEDY ALL THE TIME.

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I SPOKE TO YOU.

BUT THEN YOU WERE *ALL OVER ME, ALL THE TIME.*

WAS I...

...SUCH A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

...

...I REMEMBER.

I REMEMBER...

...THE *FIRST* CONVERSATION WE EVER HAD.

I WAS ALWAYS ALONE.

YOU WERE A YEAR OLDER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

EVERYONE WAS A LITTLE AFRAID OF YOU.

ASUOU.

WHEN YOU SPOKE TO ME...

WE CHANGE CLASSES NEXT PERIOD.

...I WAS *HAPPY.*

ME WERE IN YOUR ROOM...
THE DAY IT SNOWED...
WHAT DO YOU THINK...
THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS THE DAY YOU ASKED ME...
...WHETHER YOU SHOULD .
...ATTEND KYOTO UNIVERSITY OR NOT.
.I SHOULD DO?
OBINATA?

YOU SAID-
YOU SAID YOU NEVER WANTED TO MEET ME AGAIN.
WOULD I HAVE STAYED FRIENDS WITH YOU FOR THREE YEARS IF YOU WERE?
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS-
GRAB
YOU SAID "GO TO KYOTO UNIVERSITY."
"I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN."
BEFORE THAT...

WHEN I PUT MY ARMS AROUND YOU,

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PULLED AWAY.

AND THEN,

YOU NEVER SPOKE TO ME AGAIN.

I GUESS YOU DO REMEMBER

I KISSED YOU.

I WAS GOING TO *MAKE LOVE* TO YOU,

JUST AS IF. .

.. YOU WERE A WOMAN.

I...

I DIDN'T RESIST.

WHEN YOU TOUCHED ME,
DID YOU QUICKLY LOSE INTEREST?
WHAT...
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME,
OBINATA...?
...AHHOH...
OF COURSE NOT!!!
IT WASN'T THAT-
THEN...
WHY DID I PULL AWAY?
I...

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!!!
DID YOU THINK THAT YOU COULD JUST COME AND LIVE HERE?!
THEN WHY DID YOU MARRY SHIMA-NIISE?!
SHOVE
WAS I...
...SUPPOSED TO JUST KEEP WAITING?!

WELL, I CERTAINLY WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.

IT'S A *MORE DIRECT* REASON THAN I THOUGHT.

SUIC DE! SUIC DE!

I WOULD *DIE.*

I'M SO SHOCKED.

THIS IS SERIOUS.

YOU THINK?

BIG SIS *STOLE* BIG BRO'S BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?

TAIGA-NII'S OLD *BOYFRIEND* WAS SO PEEVED THAT HE *MARRIED OUR SISTER...*

BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH MATURITY, RIGHT?

YOU...

TAIGA-NII, THIS IS A THIRTY-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE HOUSE, ISN'T IT?

YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD *ALL OVER THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.*

KNOCK KNOCK

ゴゴゴ

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN THERE...

WHY...

SO *THAT'S* IT.

BUT IT'S JUST A *LOVER'S QUARREL.*

I THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING KINDA LOUD IN HERE.

ZPC START

KEN-CHAN AT THE LIQUOR STORE HAS ALREADY ASKED ME,

"SO YOUR BROTHER'S BROUGHT HOME A 'WIFE'?"

THAT'S RIGHT.

OUR SISTER'S HUSBAND, OUR BROTHER'S WIFE- IT'S ALL THE SAME TO US.

GO!

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS,

YOU GUYS JUST FIGHT IT OUT.

SHALL WE GET OUT OF THEIR WAY?

THAT'S FOR SHUU-SAN TO DECIDE.

NOW, NOW.

BULLUT....

LEAVE THEM ALONE MATUM

STEP

どた

どた

STEP

STEP

どた

"LET'S GO EVERYBODY"

I'M A LITTLE UNSURE - IS MY ADOPTIVE FATHER TAKING A BRIDE,

OR BEING TAKEN AS A BRIDE..?

YOU GUYS ARE OKAY WITH THIS?

OH, WHO CARES?!

STAB

HE'S ALREADY MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE.

BECAUSE SHUU IS OUR SISTER'S HUSBAND, RIGHT?

STEP

STEP

STEP

BUT FROM THE START IT SEEMED LIKE TAIGA-NII WAS GETTING DUMPED.

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW

IT'S PRETTY TOUGH,

FOR YOU TOO.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
キキキ CLANK
コンコン CLANG
キキキ CLANK
コンコン CLANG
MIN
MIN
HAHA
BRATS
OUT OF THE WAR
MAKE WAY!
KORAA! KORAA!
おにぃちゃん
KYAAA WA?
RATTLE
IRIN
ちま FOLD
ちま FOLD
ちま FOLD
ちま FOLD
B. TCHES
IT'S THE ADOPTED SON, THE ADOPTED SON, THE ONE THE BRIDE-GROOM BROUGHT
パ SHUT
タ ン ‥
がくっ
COLLAPSE

BOOM
BOOM
TUDUD
MIN
MIN
MIN
BUT..
I'VE BEEN TRYING..
..TO UNDERSTAND YOU.
..I WAS STILL SURPRISED..
..TO HEAR THAT...
..YOU DID IT WITH YOUR BRIDE'S BROTHER.
IT WAS MORE LIKE...
.. WE WERE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS.
WE DIDN'T DO IT.

SURPRISED
FIVE MORE LEFT!!!
DSHOO
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A COLUMN OR AN ESSAY.
BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE WRITING IT RIGHT NOW?
IS THIS REALLY THE TIME TO DO THAT?
..I FIND THOSE THINGS EVEN HARDER TO WRITE THAN NOVELS.
TAGA ASKED ME TO MAKE SURE YOU DID IT.
I DIDN'T SAY IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
SIGH
YOU'D MAKE A GOOD EDITOR, YUKITA...

IT WOULD BE GOOD.
IF WE COULD STAY HERE FOREVER.
YOU...
YOU'RE HAPPIER HERE THAN YOU WERE IN KYOTO.
EVERY SINGLE DAY.
IF YOU'RE HAPPY,
THEN I'M HAPPY.

I WONDER...
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
HE REALLY UNDERSTANDS YOU.
I DON'T...
...REALLY DISLIKE HIM THAT MUCH.
CLICK

HA HA
...JUST CALLING A BRAT A BRAT
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
...A BRAT.
DON'T CALL YOUR FATHER...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
YOU'RE SUCH A BRAT.

NO WAY!

WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH YUUTA..?

I HAVE A LITTLE MORE WRITING TO DO.

HE SAID HE'D BE WORKING OVERTIME.

WHERE'S TAIGA-NII?

I FIGURED YOU'D BE WEARING A SCHOOLGIRL'S SAILOR UNIFORM.

YOU BEING YOU.

HE'S A GUY AIN'T HE?

YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO ALONE..?

BESIDES, I CAN'T LET MAYUMI-CHAN GO ALONE.

GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELF.

OBINATA WOULD WORRY.

...I WAS VERY HAPPY.

WHEN IT WAS JUST YOU AND ME...

...KNOW THAT.

I...

RATTLE

RATTLE

SLAM

I'M HOME!

THE FESTIVAL IS STARTING!

WELCOME HOME, MAYUMI-CHAN.

SHUU!!!

YOU IN YOUR ROOM?

STEP

STEP

STEP

I'M GOING TO CHANGE IN HERE.

DON'T PEEK!

NO, I'M NOT!

THUMP

HIS CLOTHES ARE ALWAYS BUTTONED UP TO THE TOP.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

...ARE YOU SURE HE'S REALLY A GUY...?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW...

I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY

SLIDE

THE HEM IS SO LOOONG!

THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT SCHOOL?

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE NEW TERM TO START.

HE'LL ENROLL IN THE SAME SCHOOL YOU GO TO, MAYUMI.

BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS WEAR BLAZERS AT MY SCHOOL.

HIS CHEST IS ACTUALLY

FINALLY WE'LL KNOW IF

ARE YOU GOING TO UNDRESS ...

...HERE?

I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL. .

BUT.

I'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

RIGHT, YUUTA?

YUUTA, STAND UP.

THANK YOU, SHIJI!

HUH?

A YUKATA.

I MADE ONE FOR YOU TOO.

BAM

IT *MATCHES* MAYUMI'S.

THAT'S A REALLY CUTE OBI BOW! ♡

DON'T WORRY, IT'S A *MEN'S* YUKATA.

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

THUD

WHAT?!

MATCHING?

WE SHOULD PROBABLY PUT A TOWEL UNDERNEATH THE OBI.

PAT PAT PAT

MAYUMI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO SLENDER.

TIGHTEN TIGHTEN

WE'LL TUCK IT UP.

PERVERT! PERVERT?

UNH!

HAHAH

YAY! ♡

ALL DONE!

SMILE

IT'S A FIGHTING FESTIVAL!

LET'S GO, YUUTA.

OH?

I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL.

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT

CHUCKLE

IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT FIT

TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF...

...AND TRY IT ON.

..

I DIDN'T THINK HE HAD THE TIME TO SPARE ..

..TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

HUH?

MAYUMI-CHAN, HERE.

MENACING...

SHOWA YAKUZA...

OH, IT'S SO CUTE! ♡

YOUR PURSE.

IS THERE A YAKUZA ANYWHERE WITH HAIR LIKE THIS?

FOR YUKITA...

*SHOWA IS A PERIOD OF TIME IN JAPAN HISTORY FROM 1926 TO 1989. THEY'RE COMMENTING ON THE OLD-FASHIONED FEEL OF THE YUKATA

*THE TWO TYPES OF OBI FOR MEN ARE KAKU OBI (STIFF)—A COTTON FABRIC ABOUT TWO INCHES OR WIDER AND KNOTTED AT THE BACK, AND HEKO OBI (SOFT)—A SIMPLE, LOOSELY-TIED BOW WORN AS PART OF A MAN'S INFORMAL ATTIRE

I'VE EX-NOTHING TO DO.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I THOUGHT WE'D TRY A BLACK SOFT* OBI FOR YOU.

I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT YOU USE

LOOK!

I GUESS THAT AREA IS SHUU'S.

.. SINCE SHIMA-NEE LIVED HERE.

IT HASN'T CHANGED MUCH...

THIS ROOM...

BUT WHAT...?

WHAT IS IT?

SOMETHING'S ODD...

BOOM

YOU'RE VERY ADAPTABLE, AREN'T YOU?

I'M IMPRESSED.

BOOM

BOOM

YOU'RE THE ADAPTABLE ONE, AREN'T YOU?

BOOM

DURING ALL OF THAT UPROAR RECENTLY,

I THINK YOU WERE THE MOST DETACHED.

バッ JERK

I'LL KILL YOU."

DO YOU REALLY THINK...

...THAT WE'LL STILL BE HERE WHEN SECOND TERM STARTS?

HUH? ARE YOU LEAVING?

WE'RE GOING!

I GET IRRITATED!

WHEN I REMEMBER THAT IT'S YOU INSIDE THAT YUKATA,

YOU'RE SO TOUGH.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

...!!!

LET'S HOLD HANDS!

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL, WE'LL BE WALKING THERE TOGETHER EVERY DAY.

IT'S DISGUSTING!

IT'S LIKE I'M WALKING WITH A GIRL.

WAIT RIGHT THERE.

HE OWNS THE PHOTO SHOP

WHO'S THAT?

PHOTO SHOP

SHIFT.

SHIFT

YES, WE'RE A LITTLE LATE.

THAT'S A NICE YUKATA

LET ME TAKE A PICTURE.

19XX

19XX

CHOKI

AREN'T YOU STAYING?

I MIGHT HAVE A COMPLAINT OR TWO.

IF WE WERE STAYING FOR GOOD.

...IS WHEREVER SHUU IS.

MY PLACE...

IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE.

CHAPTER 7

CHAPTER 7

CHAPTER 7

CHAPTER 7

ARE YOU GOING TO THE FESTIVAL?

MAYUMI-CHAN!

PHOTO SHOP

DPE

7:22

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN. .?

...

...I FEEL A LITTLE SAD.

WHEN I REALIZE THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU DRESSED AS A COURT LADY AGAIN.

YOU'RE WEARING A YUKATA THIS YEAR, EH?

YOU'RE WEARING A YUKATA THIS YEAR, MAYUMI-CHAN!

BUT THAT YUKATA REALLY SUITS YOU TOO!

HEY, MAYUMI-CHAN!

GEEZ, THIS TOWN IS LIKE A BROKEN RECORD!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?

YOU CAN ONLY DO IT UNTIL YOU'RE FIFTEEN.

TOO BAD.

YOU WEREN'T A "COURT LADY" THIS YEAR, HUH?

THESE ARE ALL YOU

AND THIS ONE

THIS ONE

SLUNK

H...HEY! I'M-

COME ON!

SAY CHEESE!

LET'S TAKE A PHOTO OF YOU TOGETHER.

YOUR YUKATA MATCH.

HAVE FUN

THANKS UNCLE

PUSH

HEY, MAYUMI-CHAN!

FORCED SMILE

CLICK

I WONDERED WHERE ME WAS THIS MORNING

IT'S JOU!

THERE THEY ARE! RYUUZUCHO BLOCK 3! THAT'S OUR BLOCK!

YEAHHH!

WE WON'T LET BLOCK 1 BEAT US THIS YEAR!!!

OHHH!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

THIS IS A BIGGER FESTIVAL THAN I THOUGH IT WOULD BE.

HEY!

OHHH!

YOU'RE JUST WATCHING THIS YEAR? KINDA BORING FOR YOU, HUH?

HEY, MAYU-TAN!

AH, JOU-NII!

CHATTI

MAYU-TAN!

YUUTA-KUN, YOU CAME TOO!

AKI-CHAAAN!

...SURE.

NEXT YEAR.

IF I CAN...

...YUUTA?

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD.

DO YOU WANT TO PULL THE FLOAT NEXT YEAR?

THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU

YEAH, MAYUMI, IT'S LONELY WITHOUT YOU!

YOU SHOULD PULL THE FLOAT NEXT YEAR, TOO.

YOU CAN WEAR TAIGA-NII'S HAPPI COAT.

WHY NOT TRY IT THIS YEAR?

YOU PULL IT, TOO, NEXT YEAR!

YEAH, TAIGA-CHAN AND SHIMA-CHAN WERE GREAT AT PULLING THE FLOAT.

IT'S THE OWNER OF THE TOFU SHOP NEXT DOOR.

I'M SURPRISED TO SEE THAT YOU'RE CLOSED TODAY.

YUUTA!

SMILE

HAPPI COAT IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE COAT THAT TYPICALLY

Natsumi Ando & Yuki Kure present

Hair • Sugano

scene.6

GRAB

BUMP

OK.

...

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL?

HOW *DARE* YOU BRING A *GIRL* HERE!

HEY YOU, *PUNK!*

IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE, GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!

LET GO.

THIS IS WHERE OUR FESTIVAL KICKS OFF.

C'MON! I'M READY TO TAKE YOU ON ANYTIME

BLOCK 1 AND BLOCK 2 ARE ALREADY FIGHTING!

WAAA!

LET'S GO LOOK AT THE BOOTHS!

THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE THE FLOATS COME OUT

YUKITA!

THIS IS A REALLY FUN FESTIVAL!

GRAB

PLEASE DON'T FIGHT, TAT-CHAN.

MAYUMI..?!

...-E...

YOU, STAY OUT OF THIS, CUTI-...

YOU COME TO THE FESTIVAL WITH AN OUTSIDER?

WHAT, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ON THE FLOAT THIS YEAR,

ARE YOU WITH THIS GUY, MAYUMI?

THUMP

BRIDE? I THOUGHT IT WAS A GUY?

OH!

TAIGA-NII'S BRIDE'S ADOPTED SON!

THIS IS YUUTA.

HE'S LIVING WITH US.

HE'S NOT AN OUTSIDER

STRAIGHTEN

NOPE.

I DON'T FIGHT OUTSIDE.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?!

YOUR STUPIDITY MIGHT BE CATCHING.

GET YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF ME.

BRING IT ON!

JUST TRY AND KILL US!!!

...HOLD IT.

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A MURDERER.

GULP

BOOM
HEY, THINGS ARE GETTING STARTED!
IF IT WAS THAT EASY, DO YOU THINK I'D BE SUFFERING LIKE THIS?
BOOM
BOOM
OOOOOHHHH
WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS YEAR!!!
SORRY, BRIDE'S ADOPTED SON!
LATER, MAYUMI!
I KNOW, MAYUMI!
WHY ARE YOU STILL WEARING GIRLS' CL-
BUT YOU'RE NOT RIDING ON THE FLOAT THIS YEAR,
WHAT DOES SISTER'S BRIDE MEAN?
THAT GUY WHO IS EITHER MY BROTHER'S BRIDE OR MY SISTER'S BRIDE, SEWED THIS YUKATA FOR ME.
CUTE, ISN'T IT?
YOU SHOULD WEAR THAT...
.. TO THE TENJIN FESTIVAL!
.. TO A CLASSMATE DRESSED IN A WOMAN'S CLOTHES.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THEIR CALM REACTION ..
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
I WAS SHIMA-NEE'S DRESS-UP DOLL.
UNTIL I WAS SIX, I ONLY WORE GIRLS' CLOTHES.
THEY'RE USED TO IT
HA HA HA
KOJI, FROM THE BUDDHIST ALTAR STORE, AND,
KAZUO, FROM THE PLASTER STORE.
FROM THE LEFT: TATSUYA, FROM THE FISH STORE,
NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS.
THE HELL...?!
"ME"?
YOU NEED TO GET A GIRLFRIEND.
WHY DON'T YOU STOP USING ME AS A STAND-IN?

MAYUMI USES THE MORE MASCULINE FORM OF "ME" OR "I" TO REFER TO HIMSELF HERE, INSTEAD OF THE

BECAUSE GIRLS' THINGS. . .

...ARE REALLY PRETTY.

SURPRISE

I NEVER DISLIKED WEARING GIRLS' CLOTHES.

BUT, TO BE HONEST,

EVEN WHEN I WAS A KID

BECAUSE I WAS THE YOUNGEST, ...

SHIMA-NEE TAUGHT ME THAT

OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT,

TAIGA-NII WOULD LEAP OUT FROM SOMEWHERE.

BUT I WAS NEVER BULLIED.

IF I WAS CALLED GIRLY-BOY

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

HE'S CUTE, ISN'T HE?!

RIGHT?!

SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE WANTED AT LEAST ONE YOUNGER SISTER.

I THINK HE WAS GETTING MAD AT THE WRONG THING.

HE'D SAY

HE'D BEAT THEM UP UNTIL THEY SAID I WAS CUTE.

SIGH

TAIGA!

FOO

LET GO

HE'S A GREAT BROTHER.

AFTER THAT I NEVER WORE A SKIRT AGAIN.

IT WAS TAIGA-NII WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO STOP HER.

WHEN SHIMA-NEE WANTED TO PUT ME IN A DRESS FOR MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY,

IT'S FUN TO THINK THAT

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

HMMM

YOUR APPEARANCE IS DECEIVING.

YOU FOOLED ME

ISN'T IT?

I LEARNED ABOUT MANLINESS FROM TAIGA-NII.

GENTLENESS FROM AKI-CHAN

TOUGHNESS FROM JOU-NII.

BUT BECAUSE I COULDN'T JUST BECOME THE THINGS THEY WANTED ME TO BE,

IT WAS REALLY HARD SOMETIMES.

I REALLY...

.. SHOULD HAVE TURNED DOWN THIS JOB.

RUSTLE

AFTER ALL, THE THEME OF THE ESSAY IS "FAMILY".

ASUKU HAS ALWAYS BEEN WEAK WITH THIS TOPIC.

RUSTLE

SLAM

!!!

OBINATA.

HE HASN'T HAD MUCH FAMILY TO BASE HIS WRITING ON...

HONEST!

BOOM

I DIDN'T TRY TO FOOL YOU.LU.

WHAT DO YOU MEEEANNN?

CHATTER

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

RATTLE

I'M HOME.

NO ONE'S HOME, HUH...?

AHH

RATTLE

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP WHIRR WHIRR

HE WROTE AN ESSAY THAT'S UNUSUALLY LONG FOR HIM.

BEEP BEEP BEEP WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR

KNOCK KNOCK

THE ESSAY ASHOU WROTE. .

...ON THE SUBJECT OF FAMILY.

.. WAS A KIND OF BOOK REVIEW...

PI PI PI

BOOM BOOM

IF I DON'T GET GOING, IT'LL BE OVER

THAT'S RIGHT,

I SENT MAYUMI-CHAN OFF TO THE FESTIVAL WITH YUUTA.

BEEEEEP BEEEEEP

SORRY. SORRY.

OH, I FINISHED THE ESSAY.

RATTA RATTA RATTA

GEEZ, IF YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE,

AT LEAST MAKE SOME SOUND WHEN YOU WALK!

...WASN'T DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

THE THEME..

EH?

I WAS JUST READING IT.

I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH IT

SORRY I MADE YOU WRITE ON THIS TOPIC.

IDOL POINT

OF COURSE NOT...

BUT ONCE I STARTED WORKING, IT JUST WASN'T POSSIBLE.

I PULLED IT EVERY YEAR UNTIL I GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY.

BOOM

IF YOU'RE ALONE IN THE HOUSE.

...THE NOISE OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE REALLY LOUD

CHATTER

NOT REALLY..

OBINATA, DIDN'T YOU WANT TO PULL THE FLOAT?

BOOM

CHATTER

I'M GLAD.

.THAT I DIDN'T LEAVE ASUOU BEHIND.

BOOM

BUT IT'S REALLY GREAT HAVING A FESTIVAL LIKE THIS.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THEY ASKED YUUTA TO PULL THE FLOAT.

BOOM

I WAS SURPRISED.

.I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WRITE ABOUT US.

BOOM

BOOM

LET'S GO..

...TO THE FESTIVAL TOGETHER.

AH, WHAT AM I SAYING?

BBOOM

..YOU TOO.

THEN, I'LL GO LOCK THE DOORS.

IT'S REALLY OKAY?

BUT...

BOOM

BOOM

CHATTER

CHATTER

...THINGS HAVE BEEN UNCOMFORT-ABLE.

AND IF WE GO WALKING AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOGETHER THE RUMORS WILL FLY

EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AFTER THAT RUCKUS...

STEP

STEP

STEP

THESE...

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

.. TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHERE EACH OF THEM COMES FROM..

.. FEELINGS THAT WHIRL INSIDE OF ME. .

HEY.

GOTTA WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

...SO GIRLY.

. .IT'S...

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE.

WEL...

AH...

THE ESSAY I ASKED YOU TO WRITE TODAY.

EH?

OUT OF THE WAY! OUT OF THE WAY!

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

HEY!

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

RATTLE

RATTLE

YIKES!

THUD

THEY'RE KIND OF LIKE THE FLOATS IN THE KANSAI REGION.

YUUTA MUST BE HAVING A GREAT TIME.

WITH A FESTIVAL AS LIVELY AS THIS ONE IS,

YAY

YAY

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

BY THE WAY,

WHY DID YOU ADD *HIM*...

...TO YOUR FAMILY RECORDS?

IS HE RELATED TO YOUR GRAND-FATHER OR SOMETHING?

BUMP

SORRY

WHAT THE-

EXCUSE ME

AH!

BUMP

...SORRY

SIGH-

WHERE DID YOU MEET HIM?

SO,

?

NO.

HE WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER.

I HAD BEEN ASKED TO DO SOME TEACHING...

SO I WAS HEADING OVER TO OSAKA UNIVERSITY TO PICK UP THE MATERIALS.

YULITA JUMPED OUT IN FRONT OF. .

. THE CAR I WAS RIDING IN.

...

YOU DON'T *SERIOUSLY* EXPECT ME...

..TO LEAVE IT AT THAT,

DO YOU?

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

YOU JUMPED IN FRONT OF HIS CAR?!

MOST OF THE PEOPLE I KNEW WERE ALL IN THE SAME SITUATION.

REALLY?

WOW. YOU HAVE AN AMAZING PAST

I DIDN'T EVEN GO TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

TEN OR ELEVEN.

HOW OLD WERE YOU?

SHUU WAS IN UNIVERSITY

RATTLE

BUT SHUU WAS IN THE CAR.

MOVE

I THOUGHT IF THE CAR HIT ME, THE DRIVER MIGHT BUY ME SOMETHING TO EAT

YEP.

THUD

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A KID TO SURVIVE ALONE.

MY MOM RAN OFF WITH SOME GUY.

THE GUY MY MOM SAID WAS MY DAD. .

...SAID I WASN'T HIS KID.

I SURE NEVER THOUGHT OF HIM AS MY DAD.

BUT HE CAME TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY

I DON'T KNOW WHY

I WAS HURT PRETTY BAD AND HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED.

I MET HIS EYES WITHOUT THINKING

I WAS BUSTED RIGHT AWAY.

ANYWAY, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D TRIED SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND IT DIDN'T GO WELL.

UNTIL...

...I MET SHUU.

IF I HADN'T MET SHUU..

THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE "OUTSIDE", WHICH I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW..

...STAYED THE SAME.

MY WORLD WOULD HAVE ALWAYS..

WELL, YOU WOULD BE.

HA HA

I'M SO SHOCKED!

I WAS LEFT IN A FILTHY APARTMENT.

I WAS A LOOKOUT FOR THIEVES.

I HELPED OUT IN GAMBLING DENS.

...THAT I WAS UNHAPPY OR THAT I HATED MY LIFE.

BUT I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT...

THAT WAS MY WORLD.

MY OLD MAN BEAT HIM UP.

..HE EVEN STARTED VISITING MY APARTMENT

BUT .

AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS NUTS.

WHEN I SAW SHUU LIKE THAT EVERY DAY...

IT WAS. .

I SURE DON'T

WHO KNOWS?

BUT .

..SHUU ADOPTED YOU.

I WONDER WHY .

HE LISTENED TO MY STORY

HE CAME TO MY HOSPITAL ROOM EVERY DAY

I'M ALONE TOO.

WHY DON'T YOU BECOME MY FAMILY?

THEN ONE DAY...

AND TALKED TO ME ABOUT ALL THOSE FORMAL THINGS

THAT'S YOUR RIGHT.

YOU SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL.

HE SUDDENLY SAID THAT.

HE'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.

NOW,

SHUU IS EVERYTHING TO ME.

..I WON'T TURN MY BACK ON HIM.

AND NO MATTER WHAT MISTAKES HE'S MAKING...

...TO SHUU?

WHAT ARE YOU. .

WELL, THEN.

WHEN DID SHUU BECOME. .

...SO DEAR TO ME?

WHEN YOU SAW SHUU LIKE.. WHAT?

GRADUALLY..

A FEELING EVEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND GREW.

I WONDER WHEN IT STARTED?

I DON'T THINK I CAN EXPLAIN IT IN WORDS.

IT'S NOTHING.

MAYUMI?

LOOK,

THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T LET GO.

AH!

TAIGA-NII!

WHAT?!

WHAT?!

CLACK CLACK

AH

HEY, MAYU-

MAYUMI!

JEEZ, YOU'RE LATE!

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T...

HAVE ASKED.

HE'S NOT GOING TO ANSWER.

...

WELL, MAYBE.

I'LL JUST ASK SHUU.

I GUESS FAMILY TRUMPS EVERYTHING.

I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT...

..

WELL, BUT...

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT A COMMENT LIKE THAT...

...MAKES ME HAPPY?

IT WAS REALLY CUTE.

BY THE WAY, FROM A DISTANCE, YOU TWO LOOKED LIKE A COUPLE.

WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHING.

AH!

THE STRAP BROKE..

YIKES!

CLUNK

...A LOT LESS SULLEN THAN BEFORE.

I THINK HE'S BECOME...

YUKITA, HAVE SOME COTTON CANDY TOO-

TAIGA-NII, BUY ME SOME COTTON CANDY! COTTON CANDY! ♡

I WAS WITH YUKITA, SO I WAS FINE.

NOPE

NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, RIGHT?

ARE YOU OK?

YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE A DANGEROUS BROTHER WITH A LOLITA COMPLEX.

OBINATA, ι

LET'S GO HOME!

...

RICE BALLS..?

...REALLY ADAPTED TO ALL THIS, HUH?

YOU'VE ...

TO YUUTA,

AND TO SHIHO.

..

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

HERE WE GO.

I'LL BUY YOU SOME NEW ONES.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

UH-OH.

THIS CAN'T BE FIXED.

OH, NO!

I REALLY LIKED THESE SANDALS.

EH?

I WANT TO STAY UNTIL THE END!

YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN ALREADY, HAVEN'T YOU?

SHALL WE GO HOME?

SINCE IT'S A FESTIVAL I'LL USE SPECIAL RICE

PAT

ぽん

PAT

ぽん

I'LL MAKE YOU SOME RICE BALLS.

No! No!

YOU'LL BE HAPPY IF WE GO HOME AND EAT CANDY.

STOP BEING SO SELFISH.

ぽん

PAT

ぽん

PAT

HUG

IN THE END, I'M ON TAIGA-NII'S SIDE.

AND THAT'S WHY...

HEY MAYUMI. ?

I WANT EVERYONE TO GET ALONG.

DO YOU WANT..

..TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH YULITA AND ASHOU?

TO BE HONEST, I REALLY LIKE YOU.

FOR MANY REASONS.

YOU'RE ALWAYS KIND TO US.

YOU COOK FOR US.

YOU SEWED THIS YUKATA FOR ME.

SHUU, I DON'T HATE YOU.

WHY DO YOU LIKE US?

IT'S REALLY STRANGE.

IT'S LIKE...

...YOU ALREADY DECIDED TO LIKE US EVEN ***BEFORE*** YOU MET US.

WHY ARE YOU SO KIND TO US?

WHY DO YOU DO ALL THOSE THINGS FOR US?

BUT *WHY?*

BECAUSE I LIKE ALL OF YOU.

AND WE DIDN'T GET ALONG AT ALL. AT FIRST.

WE'VE REALLY ONLY JUST MET.

...*WHY?*

scene.7

Ayako Sugano & Tsumugu Kimoun present

scene.6 END

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
SHUT UP AND HOLD STILL!
NO! I WANT TAIGA-NII TO CARRY ME!
WHY?
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY SCARY, MAYUMI.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
COME ON, PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY JUST ASK THINGS LIKE THAT

I THINK. .
...THAT YOU TWO NEED TO TALK.
YOU HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED SINCE "THAT" HAPPENED, HAVE YOU?
HOLD ON, YUUTA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! PUT ME DOWN!
CLACK

...I THINK THAT..

...THAT IS WHAT MIGHT BREAK SHUU.

...FOR WHAT IT IS. .

BECAUSE YOU DON'T JUST ACCEPT SHUU'S KINDNESS. .

. YOU AND TAIGA.

I THINK THAT YOU REALLY...

...THEN WHY DID YOU STOP ME?

IF YOU THINK HE'LL BREAK...

I DIDN'T THINK THAT WE WOULD BE HERE LONGER THAN A WEEK.

BUT I'M NOT THAT EAGER TO LEAVE. .

.NOW.

IT SEEMS STRANGER TO ME NOT TO ASK.

ACTUALLY.

AND..

. .SEEMS HAPPY.

BECAUSE SHUU...

...

WHY?

WHY DON'T YOU CLEAR UP THAT FALSE IMPRESSION?

BECAUSE IT'S EASIER NOT TO?

HA HA

SNICKER SNICKER

...I REALLY DON'T HATE YOU ANYMORE.

TOUCHÉ. BUT..

YOU'RE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND THAN A GIRL, ANYWAY

.YOUR BLUNTNESS.

I REALLY HATE. .

YULITA...

CLACK

CLICK

カラン コロン

CLACK

CLICK

カラン コロン

CLACK

CLICK

YOU REALLY *ARE* A BASTARD.

...BUT JUST THE TWO OF YOU.

...WANT TO KEEP LIVING WITH SHUU...

BUT YOUR BROTHERS...

...STILL THINK OF YOU AS A BABY.

DON'T PUT YOUR CHIN ON MY HEAD

I LEARNED TO UNDERSTAND THINGS.

IT'S BECAUSE I'M THE YOUNGEST

CLICK

CLACK

CLICK

CLACK

CLICK

CLACK

I GET IRRITATED.

EVERY TIME I HEAR SOMEONE SAY "YOU'RE SO CUTE, MAYLITAN",

...AND I KNEW IT FROM THE BEGINNING.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...

NOW THAT I'VE NOTICED IT, IT'S GOING TO START HURTING.

..

YOU'LL REALLY JUST SAY ANYTHING,

HUH?

MY STRAP IS CROOKED..

HE WANTS SOMETHING BADLY.

BUT HE BURIES IT SO DEEPLY THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

SHUU IS LONGING FOR SOMETHING,

BUT HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT

AREN'T YOU. .

LONELY?

SHUU...

YOU ALONE AREN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM, RIGHT?

WHAT IS IT?

LET ME DOWN.

STEP

STEP

I CAN WALK...

.. EVEN ON BARE FEET

.. TO CHANGE.

I WANT SHUU...

SOFTLY SPOKEN WORDS...

WITHOUT THEM MEANING TO, CAN PIERCE YOUR HEART.

BUT NOW.

HE'S ALWAYS SEEMED YOUNGER THAN ME, SOMEHOW.

EVEN IF I'M NOT LOOKING AT HIM, I FEEL A LITTLE PAIN.

EVEN SO

I'M SPEAKING FROM THE HEART HERE.

...I KNOW.

BECAUSE I CAN'T PULL THINGS TOGETHER.

YULITA HAS BECOME SO MATURE...

THAT'S NOT JUST MATURITY...

HE ACTS JUST LIKE A 30 OR 40-YEAR-OLD MAN.

HE'S DETERMINED TO PROTECT YOU.

IT'S BECAUSE

TAP TAP

I THINK HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON.

MAYBE

EVEN THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

SCRITCH

FWOM

LET'S WALK SLOWLY

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

CHATTER

CHATTER

.OH.

WATCH YOUR CIGARETTE.

YOU'RE SETTING YOUR HAIR ON FIRE.

...

...

...

PUFF

..I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT.

EVEN AFTER BEING TOLD THAT...

PUFF

YOU TWO NEED TO TALK

IT'S VERY POSSIBLE THAT HE IS MUCH MORE MATURE

THAN THE TWO OF US.

..OBINATA.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

I DID IT BECAUSE I WANTED YOU!

WHY DO I EVEN HAVE TO SAY IT?

.DON'T BE MEAN.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

!

...AND .

THAT WASN'T THE ONLY TIME.

THAT WAS JUST WHEN MY CONTROL FINALLY BROKE.

SHRED

...OBINATA.

AH...

CHOKE

CHOKE

STOMP

DID YOU THINK YOU WANTED TO DO WHAT YOU STARTED OUT TO DO?

THAT TIME, WHY..

COUGH

. .WHAT I STARTED OUT TO DO?

HEY YOU-!

BAM

START

THERE WASN'T.

.ANY PARTICULAR NEED.

.FOR YOU TO CONTROL YOURSELF

...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

.DO YOU STILL HAVE SOME OF THOSE FEELINGS?

EVEN NOW.

...!

STOP..

. ASKING ME STUPID QUESTIONS.

GRAB

LIKE THAT TIME...

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ABOUT IT?

AND IF I DID STILL HAVE THOSE FEELINGS?

...DO YOU PLAN TO JUST MEEKLY ACCEPT IT?

IT WOULD BE THE SAME IF I *WEREN'T* MARRIED TO HER

YOU..

YOU JUST DON'T LIKE ME.

THAT'S A LIE.

.. IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT HE WOULD THINK THAT WAY.

. GIVEN THE WAY I'VE BEEN TREATING HIM...

I GUESS. .

I DON'T THINK YOU HATE SHUU AT ALL.

WHAT'S THIS? TAIGA-NII! ..

OBINATA .

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

IF YOU WEREN'T MARRIED TO MY SISTER.

I WOULD-

I WOULD STILL *WANT* YOU.

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE I BROKE OUR RELATION-SHIP OFF WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.

MAYBE HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL IN THAT TIME.

BUT I SHOULD HAVE GROWN UP AT LEAST A LITTLE.

THAT TINY BIT OF HAPPINESS THAT HE HAS PROTECTED IN HIS HEART...

MAYBE WE COULD GO BACK TO THAT PLACE...

IF I COULD JUST ACCEPT IT THIS TIME.

THE PLACE WE WERE THEN.

WHY IS IT THAT MAYUMI UNDERSTANDS ...

. WHAT YOU CAN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND?

BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THAT SURPRISING.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I STILL DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.

MAYBE. .

I WAS SURE THAT I HAD CUT THINGS OFF COMPLETELY, LONG AGO.

I WAS SURE OF IT.

BUT I'M STILL PUTTING THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE.

...WHAT'S WRONG, OBINATA?

THAT TIME...

..WHY DID I PULL AWAY?

I LIED.

WHEN I SAID I SPOKE TO YOU AT FIRST BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WOU..DN'T BECOME ANNOYING.

BUT. .

TO HOW THINGS WERE THEN...

IS THAT THE BEST I CAN DO?

"JUST STAY BY MY SIDE".

IF SO, WHY?

...THAT I CAN GIVE ASHOU?

WHAT IF THAT IS THE MOST..

I WAS THE ONE WHO GREW ...

. .TO LIKE YOU SO QUICKLY.

I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LONELY.

THAT'S WHY I SPOKE TO YOU.

WHY DO YOU LIKE US?

IT'S REALLY STRANGE

.. REALLY HAPPY..

I WAS JUST .

..AT THAT MOMENT

EITHER WAY, IT'S OKAY

IF SO, I SHOULD JUST MAKE LOVE TO HIM.

HE WON'T MOVE FORWARD

...WON'T CHANGE

EVEN IF I DO THAT, ASUOU...

IS THAT THE ONLY THING I CAN DO?

RUSTLE

BOOM BOBOM

BOOM BOOM

LAP LAP

...AND ACCEPT IT.

...HE WILL JUST TAKE THAT IN...

IF I TELL HIM WHAT I'M FEELING...

WITHDRAW AGAIN

THAT'S SOME KIND OF OVER-CONFIDENCE.

HA HA HA

I'M NOT TELLING ANYONE.

THE BOOKS YOUR COMPANY PUBLISHES-

ARE'NT AS POPULAR AS YOU THINK.

SLICK

I WON'T TELL ANYONE THAT

THAT WE HAVE A MALE BRIDE IN THE HOUSE..

..DOING THE COOKING

AR TIWE TI HECK ..ORL HI'S TORY HET.K

YOU GUYS TOO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MALE BR..E?

DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT SHUU ASUOU IS HERE!

HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT!

SCI-FI IS *BORING* AND THAT'S WHY IT DOESN'T SELL, AM I RIGHT?

HEH?

THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING IN THE SCI-FI WORLD!!!

WE PUBLISH FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES AN ISSUE!!!

THUMP

SQUEEK

CLINK

OHH, NOO! OHH, NOO!

CLINK

JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE AT SCHOOL...

YOU SEEM HAPPY

OHH, NOO! OHH NOO!

THE NEW SCHOOL TERM STARTS SOOOON!

AND DOING THE COOKING.

..THAT SHUU ASUOU IS IN OUR HOUSE WEARING A COVERALL APRON. .

STED

THINK I'LL HAVE A SLICE.

THAT WATER-MELON LOOKS GOOD.

NEVER MIND.

EH?

...YOU TOO.

MUNCH

YOU LOOK LIKE AN OLD MAN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU PERVERT?!

KYAA!

CUT IT OUT

YOU'LL SHOCK THE NEIGHBORS.

HERE!

TAKE IT OFF! TAKE IT OFF!

I FEEL HOT AND STIFLED JUST LOOKING AT YOU, ALL BUTTONED UP LIKE THAT.

SCRITCH #11 YOURE ALL TALK

HOP

AAHH

#11 SCRITCH

#11 SCRITCH

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!!

GRAH

C'MON, YOU WANNA PIECE OF ME?!

YOURS IS ONE-HUNDREDTH OF THAT!

MY FAVORITE MAGAZINE SELLS OVER FIVE MILLION COPIES!

I...

YUUTA, PRETTY SOON, YOU NEED TO GET YOUR UNIFORM.

ARE YOU GETTING READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL TERM?

IF IT WON'T BE WASTED, I DON'T MIND.

GAH

CRASH

BAM

CLANK

. .OR IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY

PLEASE TELL ME.

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED..

I'M FINE.

THERE'S NOTHING.

..HM..

THE WATER-MELON IS NICE AND COLD.

OBINATA! JOU-KUN!

DON'T LOOK LIKE THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!

YAA

YAA

SHUU..

?

AKINOBU, HAVE SOME WATERMELON.

THANKS.

NEVER MIND.

..THAT IT'S BECOME NATURAL NOW TO HAVE YOU HERE.

IT'S JUST... I WAS THINKING...

PUNCH

CRASH

わあ

わあ

YAAA!

YAAA!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

PERVERT! ERO-TIC WILD YU-TA

... ...

WHEN IS SOON?

OK? I'LL READ IT SOON, THOUGH!

SHUU

OI OI SOON

YOU MEAN. .

THIS JERK SAID THAT THE REASON "ASIMOV" DOESN'T SELL...

...IS BECAUSE IT'S BORING!

STAR WRITER

看板作家

IN OTHER WORDS... IT'S MY FAULT?

← HE SEEMS TO ALREADY HAVE SOME IDEA

COLLAPSE

DON'T OPEN YOUR BIG MOUTH THEN.

SLAP ばしっ

ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY READ ANY ISSUES...

IT'S NOT BORING!

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF HE SLAPS HER TWICE?

PUNCH!

PLEASE DON'T SAY "BORING" IN SUCH A LOUD VOICE.

...THAT SHIMA-NEE ALWAYS WANTED TO LEAVE...

...THIS HOUSE?

...DO YOU THINK.

THAT IS *ABSOLUTELY* NOT TRUE.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT THIS SCENE.

WHICH ONE IS IT, SHU?

STOP!

MAYBE IF YOU REALLY WANT TO READ SOME OF SHU-SAN'S BOOKS I CAN RECOMMEND ONE

THINK ABOUT TOO DEEPLY.

GUESS IT WAS SOMETHING UNDERSTOOD FROM THE BEGINNING.

THE REASON IS...

SPEAKING OF REPORTS,

I SUPPOSE SHIMA NEE-CHAN IS LIVING COMFORTABLY SOMEWHERE...

THE OTHER'S A NONFICTION WRITER.

ONE'S A FICTION WRITER.

WHAT A COUPLE

BUT IT'S OK FOR YUUTA TO READ IT?

WOW THIS IS DISGUST-

I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY READ ANY OF SHIMA NEE-CHAN'S BOOKS EITHER.

COME TO THINK OF IT,

SEX INDUSTRY REPORT

...IT LOOKED LIKE IT DIDN'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL.

SHUU,

WHEN YOU WERE DUMPED BY SHIMA NEE-CHAN...

I WENT TO GET A COPY OF THE CENSUS RECORDS,

I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, BUT. .

FOR MY APPLICATION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

HE-

RIGHT?

HE'S ALWAYS HAD THE KIND OF FACE THAT DOESN'T SHOW EMOTION.

SHUU-SAN.,

WHEN WE MET, ALL SHE DID WAS TALK ABOUT ALL OF YOU.

SHIMA-SAN...

..LOVED YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

YOU MET HER, WHAT, TWO OR THREE TIMES?

YES, BUT .

WHAT RELATIONSHIP DID YOU AND SHIMA NEE-CHAN REALLY HAVE?

SHUU,

SOMETHING'S JUST NOT RIGHT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?!

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AT ANY TIME!

DID YOU THINK THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD JUST BE UNTIL YOU WERE FOUND OUT?!

YOU NEVER UNPACKED ANY OF YOUR BOXES.

IN YOUR ROOM.

THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!

DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD JUST LEAVE WHEN YOU WERE FOUND OUT?!

START

MAYUMI, STOP!

YOUR MARRIAGE ..

..TO SHIMA-NEE ..

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS HARD TO TELL US THAT AT FIRST

BUT ..

.. WASN'T REGISTERED.

, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO HAVE TOLD US BY NOW?

nino miya present

scene.8

©Nino Miya

scene.7 END

ASUOU!!! STOP!

SPLASH

SPLASH

KSSSSH

AKINOBU...

JOU...

MAYUMI. .

..

...MY...

. .CUTE YOUNGER BROTHERS!

SO YOU ARE ALL. .

...ARE MARRIED.

SHIMA-SAN AND I...

SCRUNCH

ASUOU!!!

SLAM

RATTLE

KSSSSSSH

I'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO KYOTO WITH ME.

...UNTIL NOW.

I'VE BEEN PATIENT.

WELL, IT'S OVER NOW

I HAD A FEELING THAT IT WOULD COME TO *THIS*.

YUUTA, YOU KNEW?!

YU-

I HAD A CLUE.

. DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE...

AS TO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE FEELING.

RIGHT?

TO TURN A BUNCH OF STRANGERS INTO A FAMILY

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, AFTER ALL.

HE REALLY...

ARE YOU UPSET?

BECAUSE IT'S NOT FOR THE SAME REASON?

THAT'S.

BUT HE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANT EMOTIONAL STUFF

HE TRIES OUT DIFFERENT SCENARIOS.

HE ALWAYS THINKS ABOUT THINGS HARDER THAN OTHER PEOPLE.

SHUU DOESN'T UNDERSTAND..

THAT EVEN IF YOU SAY NO OR STOP,

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT JUST WON'T CHANGE.

.. HE WAS ABANDONED BY HIS PARENTS?

BECAUSE...

WHY?

SOME-HOW ..

..I THINK I UNDERSTAND.

BECAUSE NO ONE EVER TAUGHT HIM THAT

SHUU NEVER.

.TOLD ANY OF YOU NO OR STOP, DID HE? NOT SERIOUSLY

WHEN YOU BROTHERS ARE FIGHTING, DO YOU THINK...

..."IF I SAY THIS, IT'S ALL OVER", OR

"IF I DO THIS, THERE'S NO GOING BACK", OR THINGS LIKE THAT?

HA HA

SHUU..

NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT.

I DON'T THINK AT ALL.

I DON'T THINK SO. .

, WAS THE LAST STRAW.

THAT ONE PIECE OF PAPER..

...CUTE LITTLE BROTHER.

JUST LIKE A CHILD. .

MY .

.THAT ENDED EVERYTHING.

IT WAS REALLY A SHOCK.

KSSSSH

THE THINGS I DIDN'T LEARN FROM MY PARENTS,

I LEARNED LATER FROM SHILL.

BUT...

BUT...

I DON'T KNOW.

HE DOESN'T KNOW

. I CAN'T SAY THAT THAT'S NOT THE REASON WHY

AND FIXED MY SIGHT ON SOMETHING I CAN NEVER HAVE.

JUST LIKE A STUPID KID, I LOOKED UP TO HIM

EVEN SO,

IT CAN'T BE HELPED. HE'S AFRAID.

BUT HE CAN'T REMEMBER THOSE THINGS FOR HIMSELF.

THAT'S ALL.

BUT IT WAS REALLY JUST A PIECE OF *PAPER.*

IN THE END, FAMILY IS ABOUT *FEELINGS.*

. RECORDS DON'T MATTER.

BLOOD AND..

MY REAL FAMILY IS SHUU.

I HAVEN'T SEEN MY BLOOD FAMILY FOR YEARS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

I JUST WANTED TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

WHEN I THOUGHT "SHUU IS OUR BROTHER NOW",

CRINKLE

I..

...WOULD LEAD TO THIS.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT ASKING FOR THE RECORDS. .

BUT ..

YUUTA

SHUU

ASUUU SHUU

IT SUDDENLY SEEMED THAT THE DAY WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY.

WHEN SHUU ADDED ME TO HIS RECORDS,

MAYBE SHUU FELT THE SAME WAY.

IT WAS LIKE HE WAS ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN.

HE DIDN'T THINK...

...OF HIMSELF AS PART OF THE FAMILY

HE DIDN'T THINK THAT WE WANTED HIM...

...TO COME IN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT NOW.

AND I CAN SAY IT CLEARLY

I BELIEVE THAT *SHUU IS MY FAMILY.*

THOSE ARE MY OWN FEELINGS.

BUT SHUU...

JUST ADDING MY NAME TO THE RECORDS WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM.

HE WASN'T THINKING ABOUT HOW I FELT ABOUT HIM.

COMING HERE WAS A MISTAKE AFTER ALL.

. .HE WOULD BE FINE.

I THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS HE HAD YOU.

IT CAN'T BE ME.

. I FELT SORRY FOR HIM.

WHEN I FIRST MET HIM .

...

IT JUST WON'T WORK.

IF YOU DO THAT,

BUT .

IT'S TOO LATE NOW, THOUGH.

TOO BAD.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I DIDN'T REALIZE..

. THAT THEY FELT THAT WAY ABOUT SHUU.

GRIP

THE TRUTH IS,

I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIM.

I...

I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, BUT..

AND. .

...HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, TOO.

ALWAYS.

KOSEW

DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?

CLACK

YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY WERE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT, RIGHT?

YOU NEVER...

...GAVE UP ON SHIN, DID YOU?

STED

.. SUCH A *PERSISTENT* GUY EXISTED.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT...

I WAS AMAZED.

I'll... ...

...LEAVE.

AND RECENTLY I KEPT WONDERING WHEN I WOULD BE EXPOSED.

THE TRUTH IS I WAS ANXIOUS EVERY DAY.

THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT.

I THOUGHT ABOUT TELLING YOU.

I THOUGHT IF I TOLD YOU, SHIMA-SAN AND I WERE MARRIED.

I COULD BECOME A PART OF YOUR FAMILY.

I WAS A FOOL, WASN'T I?

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY SHOES ON.

SPLASH

SPLASH

ザアアア

.THAT YOU CAN JUST COMPLETELY END IT ALL?

DO YOU REALLY THINK.

DO YOU REMEMBER, OBINATA?

.. YOU SAID "NOT YOU."

WHEN I SAID I HAD MARRIED SHIMA-SAN...

I CAN'T DO.

...ANYTHING RIGHT.

I'M NO GOOD.

I UNDER-STAND THAT

I'M REALLY SORRY.

FOR ALL THE TROUBLE THAT I'VE CAUSED,

BUT I WAS AFRAID.

ARE YOU..

.REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

I MADE UP STORIES INSIDE MY HEAD.

AND I REMEMBERED THEM ALL.

I HAD NO ONE TO PLAY WITH BUT MYSELF

IT'S BECAUSE, SINCE I WAS A CHILD,

IF I HAVE ANY TALENT AT WRITING FICTION,

FOR ME. .

.MY RELATION-SHIPS WITH PEOPLE...

. ARE THE SAME.

. .CAN BE HAPPY THAT WAY

NO ONE. .

ASUOU. .

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

BUT THE TRUTH IS I NEVER GET THE IMPORTANT THINGS RIGHT

.ALWAYS SAY THAT I UNDERSTAND PEOPLE.

YOU. .

SO HE'S AWARE OF THAT. .

I KNOW...

...HIMSELF.

..UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.

..THAT YOU DON'T...

I PLAYED BY MYSELF...

GRIP

IT'S OVER-EXERTION.

ｶﾀｰﾝ SLAM

WORKING AND DOING ALL THE HOUSE-WORK...

DID YOU HAVE ANY TIME TO SLEEP AT ALL?

.. ASUOU?

SLIP ズ…

...I CAN'T DO IT...

KIRIN

HEY! ASUOU!

BUT.

...FROM THE BEGINNING...

...SHIMA-SAN WANTED TO GET AWAY.

OF COURSE,

I DIDN'T THINK THAT SHE WOULD NEVER COME BACK.

BUT...

...IT IS TRUE THAT SHIMA-SAN AND I DID TALK ABOUT GETTING MARRIED.

WE WERE GOING TO PUT IT IN THE RECORDS WHEN SHIMA-SAN GOT BACK.

I CAN ONLY GUESS.

..FOR SHIMA-SAN.

THAT WAS PROBABLY THE MOTIVATION FOR LEAVING..

THEN SHE CONVENIENTLY FOUND SOME-ONE WHO COULD TAKE HER PLACE.

ALTHOUGH...

I'M SORRY.

YOU'VE BEEN SO RESERVED.

I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE

..THAT YOU WERE SO STRESSED OUT.

I WAS ENJOYING MYSELF.

...

TO ALL OF YOU

.. THAT I LIED TO YOU.

I'M REALLY SORRY .

EVERY DAY HAD BEEN SO ENJOYABLE.

SINCE I CAME HERE,

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THINK THAT I WAS TIRED.

"YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH MY FAMILY, DON'T YOU?"

..SHE SAID

BUT. .

"I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT."

I HAD TOLD HER HOW MUCH I ENVIED HER FOR HER FAMILY

THE FIRST TIME WE MET.

SHIMA-NEE SAID THAT?

"WHAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN US"? YOU..

...HOW?

...ALREADY KNEW.

PLUS. SHIMA-SAN...

..WHAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN US.

BUT

. THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

RIGHT DOWN TO.

I THINK SHE HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT.

SHIMA-NEE PROPOSED TO YOU?

THERE'S JUST ONE THING I CAN'T QUITE GRASP

YES.

BECAUSE THERE WAS ALREADY SOMEONE I WAS IN LOVE WITH

.I ACTUALLY TURNED HER DOWN THE FIRST TIME.

THE TRUTH IS..

THE THING I GAVE UP.

I COULD GET BACK..

THAT JUST MAYBE..

SHE SAID IF WE LIVED TOGETHER,

MAYBE SOMETHING WOULD CHANGE.

I THOUGHT SO TOO.

IS HE SAYING...

A-..

ASUKA..?

COULD HE BE SAYING..?

BUT...

OBINATA,

YOU KEEP A DIARY?

THAT WAS REALLY A SURPRISE

DIARY?!

THAT BITCH!

SHE SAID THAT SHE READ YOUR *DIARY.*

"WITH YOUR PERSONALITIES,

...

YOU TWO WILL NEVER GET TOGETHER", SHE SAID.

BUT..

I JUST WROTE DOWN WHAT HAPPENED EVERY DAY!

PRETTY MUCH THE DEFINITION OF DIARY ISN'T IT?

BAM

OHH. WITH THE REAL THING STANDING IN FRONT OF ME, I CAN PICTURE IT GRAPHICALLY...

I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY NEEDED TO WRITE DOWN THE PART ABOUT YOU *ASSAULTING* ME...

SHE MURMURED MERCILESSLY

WHAT HURTS ME...

I HURT YOU.

I'M SORRY.

I DID LIKE YOU ALL *BEFORE* I EVEN MET YOU.

YOU WERE RIGHT.

BUT AFTER I MET YOU, I LIKED YOU EVEN *MORE.*

...THAT WE'VE GROWN TO *LIKE* YOU TOO.

...CONSIDERED...

...IS THAT YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ...

.AND JOU-NII ARE ANGRY

...WHY AKI-CHAN...

I'M SURE THAT'S ALSO...

YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT IT ANYMORE?!

YOU...

BECAUSE. .

.. EVERYONE WAS SO CUTE.

I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.

AFTER I CAME HERE,

THAT OBINATA'S FAMILY WAS *MY* FAMILY...

I ENVIED YOUR FAMILY SO MUCH.

I WAS ENJOYING MYSELF

OBINATA.

.. MADE ME SO HAPPY-EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A *LIE.*

MAYUMI-CHAN...

SILENCE

YOU.. .

. .THAT YOU ALREADY LOVED SOMEONE ...

ONE THING GOT PAST ME.

THAT PART ABOUT YOU TELLING SHIMA-NEE...

UMMM...

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT TAIGA-NII?!

SLIIDE

SCRATCH SCRATCH カ" カ"!!

..SO..? ...

DO I JUST CONTINUE NOT TO MATTER?

.. ANYMORE.

WHAT ABOUT *ME*? THE ONE WHO DOESN'T MATTER...

. .IF I STAY HERE, I CAN ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

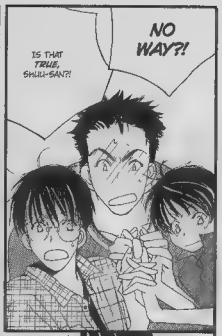
THAT'S ALL I REALLY NEED.

OBINATA...

WHAT ABOUT YOU..?

THAT'S ENOUGH! ALL OF YOU, OUT!!!
KNEEL
YOUR FEELINGS
...DON'T YOU FEEL ANY UNCERTAINTY?!
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW HOW I FELT AND YOU WERE JUST KEEPING ME AT ARMS LENGTH
-HAA-
-HAA-
-HAA-
O, OBINATA ..?

COLLAPSE
WHY DOES IT SURPRISE YOU SO MUCH?


NO WAY?!
IS THAT TRUE, SHUU-SAN?!

WHAAAAAT?!
WOW, THAT WAS A SURPRISE!
TWO GAYS WITH THE SAME FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER...
AREN'T YOU HAPPY, TAGA-NI?
...
iii

THIS TIME...

...I FEEL THAT I CAN SAY THEM.

THE THING THAT MY BROTHERS AND I WANT TO *GIVE* YOU,

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THAT DAY...

... I LOCKED THE WORDS IN MY HEART.

..WHAT WE WANTED.

SO THAT YOU COULD GIVE US...

YOU TRIED TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF US,

I HOPE I CAN SAY THEM RIGHT.

WHO KNOWS THAT?

THE THINGS YOU WANT...

BUT YOU...

WHO WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU?

IF I HAD ASKED YOU NOT TO GO TO KYOTO BEFORE,

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

YOU...

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE.

.. SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?

IS THERE...

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS.

I LOVED YOU.

I WANTED TO DO WHATEVER YOU ASKED ME TO.

THE FEELINGS WE HAD...

WHATEVER YOU WANTED, I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

...ARE STILL UNCHANGED.

THERE'S *MINE*, THERE'S *YUUTA'S*.

THERE'S NOT JUST *YOUR* "LOVE", YOU KNOW.

"I LOVE HIM AND THAT'S ENOUGH"-THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.

THAT'S WHERE IT *STARTS*.

THAT'S NOT WHERE IT ENDS.

AKINOBU, JOU, AND MAYUMI...

ALSO *LOVE* YOU.

SHUU

SHUU-SAN...

SHUU

THAT JUST BEING BY YOUR SIDE WOULD BE ENOUGH.

.. I WAS GUILTY OF THINKING...

. BECAUSE YOU HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY YOUR PARENTS, AND I FELT SORRY FOR YOU...

IN HIGH SCHOOL.

THE TWO OF US...

. I WANT TO KNOW *ALL* OF THEM.

THE THINGS THAT YOU *CAN'T STAND*...

THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU *HAPPY*...

..ANY REAL GIVE AND TAKE.

.. WHY THERE WAS NEVER...

...WHEN I TALKED TO YOU I ALWAYS WONDERED. .

.. IN HIGH SCHOOL...

THERE ARE, NO DOUBT,

TERRIBLE REASONS BEHIND THAT BELIEF.

BUT...

. .YOU HAVE TO *CHANGE*.

FOR OUR SAKE.

YOU BELIEVE..

...THAT YOU ARE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T DESERVE THINGS.

WELL..

THERE YOU GO.

ASUOU.

THOSE. .

...ARE MY FEELINGS.

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THEM.

I FELT SORRY FOR MYSELF AND SHUT THEM UP INSIDE.

YOU YOURSELF HAVE SAID. .

...THINGS LIKE THAT BEFORE.

...I DON'T WANT THAT.

BUT..

I DON'T WANT TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

AND I. .

...DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT. .

...I'M WITH YOU FOR THAT REASON.

AND THERE ARE THE OTHERS.

. ANYMORE.

NINE-TEEN-YEAR-OLD KID .

BUT I'M NOT A. .

LITTLE BY LITTLE,

IF YOU COULD JUST *TRY* TO REMEMBER

OBINATA.

ASUKA?

OKAY?

..EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND .

IT'S BECAUSE. .

..I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD CHANGE..

THAT I DREW AWAY.

I THOUGHT .

.. IT WAS JUST SOME-THING..

THAT I COULD NEVER HAVE.

WHAT!?
IF THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE,
THEN I NEED TO RE-THINK SOME THINGS.
WAIT
OBINATA!
IN HIGH SCHOOL,
IT'S TRUE THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO DO ..
..ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULDN'T LIKE.
B-UT...
...IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT I NEED TO BE MORE ASSERTIVE..
STAY. .
...WITH ME.
NNN..
. BESIDE ME.
STAY...
WA-..

I LOVE YOU, BUT-

I THINK IT'S ENOUGH JUST TO GAZE AT EACH OTHER, TO HOLD HANDS, TO SNUGGLE..

SLAM

THEN-!

FUK!

WE'RE IN OUR PRIME!

DO YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH?!

WE'RE NOT AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE!

THAT'S NOT FAIR...

AH WAIT

CREAK

WANTING TO KNOW, NOT WANTING TO KNOW, ASKING, NOT ASKING-

AH!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHAT I DON'T LIKE?!

THAT'S A DIFFERENT DISCUSSION!!!

...

SO YOU DON'T WANT ME.

I'M NOT REALLY READY FOR THIS...

..THEN I'M STARTING NOW.

THIS ISN'T A MISTAKE, OK?!

← 25
24 →

IT'S MORE LIKE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS KIND OF THING.

AND WE'RE AT AN AGE WHERE WE REGRET THE MISTAKES OF OUR YOUTH.

WHAT?!

...YOU'D LET ME STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER.

I THOUGHT IF WE DID IT..

THAT IS. .

GRAB

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KIND OF INVITED ME.

FIRST OFF,

EVEN NOW.

WHAT WAS THAT?!

. DO YOU STILL HAVE SOME OF THOSE FEELINGS?

THANK YOUUU...

IF WE HADN'T COME IN, YOU'D BE DOING IT RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

AR AR

GRRR GRRR

WITH THESE GUYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SLIDING DOOR?!

OF COURSE NOT!!!

YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO IT RIGHT HERE AND NOW?!

BG LSE

THAT WILL MAKE THE EXPLAINING FASTER.

WELL, IF YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING,

OUCH

THE THING WHERE OUR SISTER'S HUSBAND IS NOW OUR BROTHER'S BRIDE, MAYBE?

HOW WHAT IS?

THIS IS HOW IT IS.

BAM

THAT'S RIGHT? HE'S SICK.

YOU CAN'T FORCE HIM, ANIKI.

IT LOOKED LIKE MY ADOPTED FATHER WAS ABOUT TO BE *VIOLATED*...

WE COULDN'T BEAR TO LISTEN ANYMORE.

YOU GUYS...

ICHABOD

ICHABOD

WE'LL SHARE THE HOUSEWORK

PLEASE STAY

YEAH

SHUU.

. WANT YOU TO STAY.

WE. .

EVEN IF YOU WANT TO, I'M GOING TO STOP YOU.

MY BROTHER'S BRIDE.

SHOULDN'T WE INTRODUCE HIM AROUND TOWN?

YOU LOST ONE, BUT GAINED TWO! ♡

IT'S GREAT!

SO MY *FATHER* HAS A *HUSBAND* ...

IS IT .

.OKAY IF I STAY?

YAY!

YAY!

YAY!

OH, OK.

THEN, MOTHER?

OK?

MOTHER? ♡

...IF HE JUST REMEMBERS A LITTLE BIT EACH DAY.

IT'LL BE FINE...

YOU SLEEP NOW.

GET WELL AND RESTED.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT, MAYU-

MAYUMI-CHAN...

HUG

EVERY DAY,

THIS HOUSE IS IN AN UPROAR.

STOP IT! THERE'S A SICK PERSON HERE!

DASH

FAKE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN FAKE?!

WHAT DID YOU SAY, STUPID YOUNGER BROTH-ER?!

WHAT AN IDIOT FAKE-BOXER BROTHER.

WHAT AN IDIOT OLDER BROTHER

GOOD LORD!

I'M THE FATHER! ME!!!

SNICKER

SNICKER

SNICKER

SNICKER

GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

YUUTA TOO! ♡

BUT THAT'S FOR THE FUTURE.

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO CHANGE OVERNIGHT.

WE'VE WON THE FIRST BATTLE.

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

THANK YOU.

SLEEP LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT AND GET WELL!
WHY ARE YOU STILL UP?
ASUOU!
DID YOU TWO THINK YOU COULD BEAT ME THE WAY I AM TODAY?
STOMP
ドタドタ
GRIND ギリ GRIND
BECAUSE THERE WILL ALSO...
...BE MORE DEADLINES IN THE FUTURE!
BAM
CLATTER CRASH
ガーン
scene.8 END

I HUMBLY BEG YOUR PARDON.
MY OWN YUKATA IS DEEP BLUE, BUT I'VE HAD IT FOR A LONG TIME AND HOPE TO GET A NEW ONE THIS YEAR.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DRAWN A REGULAR YUKATA.
YUKATA.
I HAVE A CONFESSION- I'VE DRAWN A LOT OF YUKATA WITH JAPANESE DESIGNS.
NOTHING WORTH MENTIONING...
ANYWAY.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO DRAWING WHAT COMES AFTER FOR THESE TWO ADULTS.
PUSH/PULL. PULL/PUSH.
AND...UMMM...I WONDER IF I COULDN'T DRAW LOVE SCENES THAT ARE A LITTLE MORE...LOVEY.
I WILL BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU READ IT.
THANK YOU. ♥
I'M ALREADY NERVOUS ABOUT DOING A HIGH SCHOOL STORY.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M SOOO FAR REMOVED FROM IT NOW...
...WITH A STORY IN WHICH THE TWO YOUNGSTERS, MAYUMI AND YUUTA, ARE THE STARS.
AND CONTINUING...

● Thanks ● AKASAKA ARIKA-SAMA
MIIKE ROMIKA-SAMA
KANNO ERI-SAMA
NOMURASHINOBU-SAMA
IKEDA AYANO-SAMA
TSURUHAMA KANNA-SAMA
AND MY EDITOR, YAMADA-SAMA.

● AFTERWORD ●

HELLO, EVERYONE.
THANK YOU FOR BUYING AND READING THIS BOOK.
THIS IS THE SECOND VOLUME.
NICE THICKNESS
ALSO, THANKS VERY MUCH FOR SENDING IN THE SURVEYS AND READERS' CARDS.
SUGANO-SENSEI, THANKS FOR THE WARM COMMENTS, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIES FOR THE MAIN MAGAZINE.
THANKS FOR THE COMMENTS EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SO BUSY!
FOR THIS SECOND VOLUME,
I WANTED TO MAKE IT AS EASY AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO READ AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
BUT I MIGHT HAVE TRIED TOO HARD.
I CAN'T DENY THAT SOME THINGS DIDN'T TURN OUT RIGHT.
THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH CHAPTERS...
SOMEHOW, IN THE MANGA, I FAILED TO CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.
EDITOR, PLEASE GET ME ANOTHER ONE...
MY COPY OF THE ORIGINAL IS FALLING APART.
BUT...
...FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, EDITORS...
...EVERYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED...
...I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SO THICK-WITTED.
*CAUSING TROUBLE BY PHONE
I HEARD THAT ABOUT TWENTY TIMES LAST YEAR.
YEAH, YEAH,
I AGAIN CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR MANY PEOPLE...
DURING THIS VOLUME ...
I'M GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN!
THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS WITH THE SCRIPT!
THANKS FOR WIELDING YOUR GENTLE WHIPS.
*CAUSING TROUBLE AT THE OFFICE
AHH!
I CAN'T DO IT!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR TEARS!
WE'RE WAITING.
HURRY UP AND GIVE US WORK TO DO!
MOVE THAT HAND!
ALSO, THERE WERE MANY EARNEST LETTERS...
...SAYING, "I WANT TO SEE TAIGA-NII SMILE."
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T RESEARCH IT ENOUGH?
YOU HAVE A POINT. I WILL APPLY MYSELF IN THE FUTURE...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED THAT I HAD BECOME USED TO DRAWING THAT FURROW IN HIS BROW.
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T RELAX UNLESS IT'S THERE.
TO
TO
RO
CUT OUT THE "OK ♥"
MAYUMI
PLEASE ENJOY IT IN THE ORIGINAL NOVEL, OK? ♡
AS A RESULT,
I WAS UNABLE TO FIT IN MY FAVORITE EPISODE-
THE TOTORO EPISODE.
EVEN IF I'D HAD THE PAGES, I PROBABLY COULDN'T HAVE FIT IT IN.
AH, BUT...

I'VE GOT 16 KILOGRAMS ON HIM, ANYWAY!
HEY, GIVE ME A LEG!
HELLO.
CHING
RING
BREAK
BREAK
THAT'S NOT FAIR, TAIGA-NII!
TAIGA-NII, NO!
...
OBINATA'S.
ASU-...
AH!
JUST LIKE ONE, JUST NOW.
NEW BRIDE!
I'M JUST
NOT USED TO USING THAT NAME.
OH, NO.
NEW-
WE'LL TAKE THE REGULAR THREE BLOCKS OF TOFU.
CRASH
FOR ONE SECOND, THE OBINATA FAMILY FORGOT ABOUT THE CRAB.

RING
RING
RING
ASUOU...
ANSWER THE PHONE...
RING
RING
CHOMP
I CAN'T LET GO...
OK! OK!
STEP
STEP
RING
RING
IF YOU UNWARILY ANSWER, YOUR CRAB WILL GET EATEN.
SHU'S CRAB
NEVER MIND! JUST GET IT!
HUH? BUT...
YOU ALWAYS TELL ME NOT TO ANSWER THE PHONE
TAT-CHAN FROM THE LOCAL FISH STORE GAVE IT TO US. HE SAID IT WAS IN CELEBRATION.
BY THE WAY, HOW COME WE GET CRAB?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
RING
RING
RING

LOVE MOVES TO ITS OWN BEAT...

Romuco Miike

Barefoot Waltz

裸足でワルツを

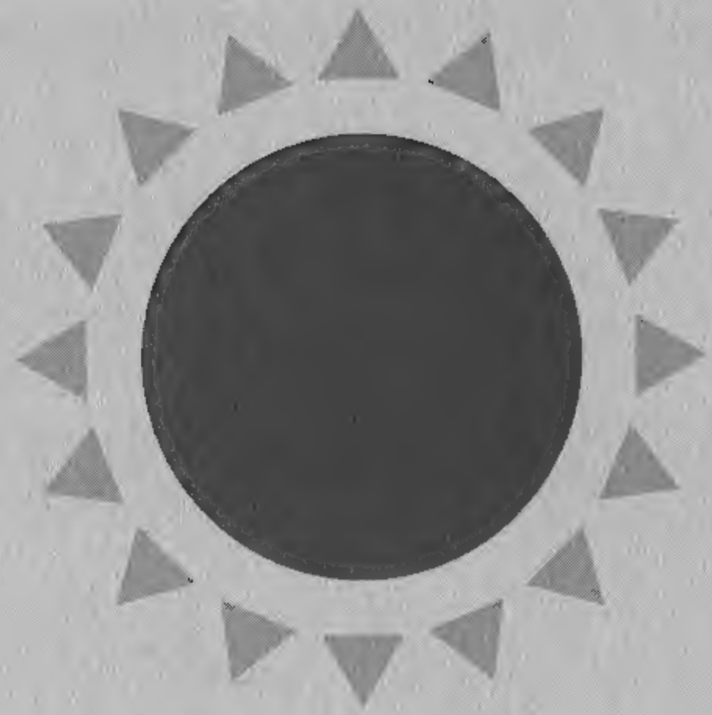
Available Now!

ISBN: 978-156970-595-7

$12.95

June

BAREFOOT WALTZ – HADASHI DE WALTZ WO © 2006 Romuco Miike. All rights reserved.
First published in Japan in 2006 by HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD., Tokyo. English translation rights in United States and Canada arranged with HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD. through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo.



CLEAR SKIES

FREE TALK BY AKIRA SUGANO

I GUESS THAT SOME OF YOU READERS ARE IMAGINING THAT AS THE AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL NOVEL, I HAD MEETINGS ALL THE TIME WITH NINOMIYA-SENSEI, BUT IT REALLY WASN'T LIKE THAT. I WAS USELESS HERE, AND MY ENJOYABLE JOB WAS JUST TO WAIT FOR THE MAGAZINE TO COME OUT SO THAT I COULD READ THE MANGA. I DON'T REALLY THINK I SHOULD EVEN BE DOING THIS FREE TALK.

I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT I'LL EVER GET SUCH FUN WORK AS THIS AGAIN. IT WAS ALSO A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME ON HOW TO MELD SPEECH AND SCENES TOGETHER.

I WAS ESPECIALLY HAPPY WITH YULITA'S EXPRESSIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE MANGA. AS I WAS READING THE MANGA, I FOUND MYSELF THINKING, "IT WAS RIGHT TO GIVE YULITA THIS EXPRESSION AT THIS POINT..." I AM TRULY GRATEFUL TO NINOMIYA-SENSEI AND THE POWER OF EXPRESSION OF HER DRAWINGS.

I DON'T FEEL THIS WHEN I'M READING MY OWN NOVELS, BUT WHEN I WAS READING THE MANGA, I FOUND MYSELF LAUGHING OUT LOUD, OR FEELING SUSPENSE, OR WANTING TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. BECAUSE OF NINOMIYA-SENSEI'S VIVID DRAWINGS, WHICH BROUGHT THESE SIX CHARACTERS TO LIFE ON THE PAGE, I LIKED THE STORY AND THE CHARACTERS EVEN MORE THAN WHEN I FIRST WROTE IT.

ONCE THE MANGAS WERE FINISHED, THERE WERE A LOT OF SCENES THAT I REALLY LIKED, BUT I PARTICULARLY LIKED THE ONE IN SCENE 7, WHERE TAIGA'S RIGHT FOOT DROPPED OFF THE EDGE OF THE BENCH WHEN SHIJU ASKED HIM, "THAT TIME, WHY DID YOU DO WHAT YOU STARTED OUT TO DO?" IT WAS A VERY TAIGA-LIKE MOVE, AND IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY. AND OF COURSE I TOTALLY ENJOYED SHIWA'S COSPLAY AND SILHOUETTES.

NINOMIYA-SENSEI, THANK YOU FOR A MANGA WELL DONE. AS JUST ANOTHER READER, I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO "YOU CAN'T STOP THE CHILDREN".